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Report on the Mortality from Influenza in England and Wales during the Epidemic of 1918-1919. Supplement to the Eighty-first Annual Report of the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages. London: H. M. Stationery Office. 1920. 119 pp.

The epidemic of influenza caused nearly 200,000 deaths in the civilian and military population of England and Wales during the forty-six week period, June 23, 1918, to May 10, 1919. Among the civilian population alone it was estimated that 184,000 deaths occurred. The rate of mortality for the forty-six week period was practically 6,400 per million of population.

The epidemic appeared in three principal waves or phases. The first wave began in the last eight days of June, 1918, reached a maximum in the week ended July 18, and subsided about the first of September. The second wave or phase began about the third week in September, rose to a maximum in the week ended November 9, and attained the minimum toward the last of the following January. The late winter and spring wave had its onset about February 1, the maximum in the week ended March 1, and the minimum approximately in the week ended May 10. Among the civilian population the death toll of the summer quarter of 1918 was estimated to be 17,500, during the last quarter of 1918, 115,000, and during the period January 1 to May 10, 51,500. Some 14,000 deaths from influenza and its consequences were experienced in the military establishment in England and Wales during the forty-six week period.

The detailed general tables in the report are introduced by a statement of the several methods used in estimating the epidemic damage for the forty-six week period. A tabular review of the age distribution of deaths from influenza in a "standard" female population, for the years 1847 and 1848, and for each year from 1890 to 1918, is then shown. Proportions of influenza deaths at five-year age groups in the calendar quarters of 1918 and in the first quarter of 1919 are given to display the unusual age incidence of the prevailing disease. The type of influenza which occurred during the first twenty-five weeks of 1918 seemed to affect chiefly young children and old people; but toward the end of June an abrupt shift in the age incidence of the disease occurred. A sudden increase in the proportion of deaths at the age group 15 to 24 years was observed; then, as the summer epidemic approached the peak, the age ranges between 25 and 35 years were most affected. The same phenomenon of an increase in the proportion of deaths in adolescence was noted at the outbreak of the autumnal and most violent phase of the epidemic. During the week of maximum death rate, the week ended November 9, the proportion of deaths was highest in the age division 20 to 30 years.

From the evidence submitted in the report it would seem that the northern areas were first affected, and that in the first wave the mortality decreased from north to south. The second wave began approximately in the week ended September 28, about two weeks later than the commencement of the epidemic in the northeastern part of the United States (week ended September 14). The interval between the second and third waves was much shorter than that between the first and second. During the first intermission in the late summer of 1918, the epidemic mortality remained below 2 per 1,000 for eleven weeks, while the intermission was only five weeks between the second and third waves.

An interesting section (pp. 27-30) is devoted to tables of crude data on the possible relation of influenza damage to such factors as wealth, general health conditions, and the prevalence of other infectious diseases. Tables on diseases and conditions complicating influenza are then displayed. An important table (XVIII) is shown on the

proportion of influenza deaths associated with puerperal diseases and conditions. A graphic section (pp. 38-47) illustrates some of the general tables discussed in the introductory section of the report. Table XX (pp. 48-80) records the number of influenza deaths, and death rates per 1,000, for each of the forty-six weeks in the principal civil divisions of England and Wales.

It was of course impossible in the time available for the Registrar General to have had analytic studies prepared. Most of the conclusions regarding the initial areas affected by the several waves of the epidemic, the relative severity in populations of varying density and economic condition, the comparative damage done in each of the waves in the numerous registration districts, and other points of interest, were drawn from inspection of the crude results. It is hoped that students of the pathometry of influenza will avail themselves of the materials which the Registrar General has set before them and endeavor by approved methods of analysis to provide concise descriptions of the data.

The Ministry of Health of Great Britain has issued a comprehensive report on the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919.* Some of the chapters will be of interest to students of influenza pathometry. It is proposed to review these statistical chapters in a later number of the *QUARTERLY*.

E. W. KOPF

The Ownership and Valuation of Mineral Properties in the United Kingdom, by R. A. S. Redmayne and Gilbert Stone. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1920. 256 pp.

One lays down Sir Richard Redmayne's latest book with the feeling that they do things better in England. He and his collaborator, Gilbert Stone, have brought together under a single cover the essential facts concerning property rights in minerals, methods of valuation for sale and taxation, and the present system of taxation in England, information which could be found in America, if at all, only after arduous search through many scattered sources. There is no book covering the American field like their *Ownership and Valuation of Mineral Properties in the United Kingdom*. The nearest approach to it consists of chapters on valuation in standard works on mining, such as those of Hoover, Finlay, and Young, and of papers by Chance, Brinsmade, Finlay, Allen, and others, scattered through the technical press and through the Proceedings of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers. The publications of the state and federal governments have dealt for the most part with specialized phases of the subject only, such as the valuation of iron mines or oil and gas wells for purposes of taxation, or the valuation of mineral-bearing public lands for sale or lease.

The authors are eminently qualified for the task they have undertaken. To it Redmayne brings not only ripe experience as colliery manager, consulting engineer, and professor of mining at the University of Birmingham, but also a record of years of public service as Chief Inspector of Mines for the United Kingdom, and as Assistant Fuel Controller during the war. Few men in England are entitled to speak with more authority on the mining industry than he. Mr. Stone's share in the work is apparently the portion relating to the law of mineral properties, and the combination of the viewpoint of the lawyer with the engineer is a happy one.

The book is designed primarily to assist the mining expert. It is, however, so

* *Report on the Pandemic of Influenza, 1918-1919*. London: H. M. Stationary Office. 1920. 577 pp.